

K N I X O N

SECRET

1119-CRIWU

21 May 1951

SUBJECT: Attached letter

TO : Chief, BGRhythm
Washington, D.C.

ATTN :

1. [] asked that the attached letter
be forwarded to you.

1 cc letter

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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21 May, 1951

Dear []

My morale is low this morning. I've gotten HTNEIGH to agree on the overall list of TPSPIDERS for this season's training program, but repeated efforts to budge them on their stand not to name the 16 men required for advanced training have met with failure all along the line.

HTNEIGH's attitude is that no one is qualified to select the individual team members prior to covert school training and that much of our past troubles resulted from the fact that [] (I don't know why he gets the blame) selected our first teams on this basis without even consulting HTNEIGH.

Another matter which is not understood by HTNEIGH at all is our American way of doing things....on the one hand we push operations to get four teams in along the coastal region this spring, but for two years we have turned deaf ears to their suggestions that we equip and train a force to drive the GYPSIES from TPSPIDERland. They see no reason why all of the trainees cannot be trained together and teams chosen by HTNEIGH in collaboration with us at the time the Junta visits the covert school.

The most serious problem of all, however, is the manner in which HTNEIGH views our entire operation....and it must be admitted that results to date leave some room for criticism.

To begin with, they don't like air drops, and I think you must prepare for the day when HTNEIGH is liable to tell us flatly that they will not go along further with this mode of operation. I think that [] (unknowingly) has helped this situation along by selling the ZRCROWN method. On the other hand, HTNEIGH members state that it is their country, that they know it like the palms of their hands, and that sufficient dropping areas do not exist in its mountainous terrain for the staging of air drop operations.

Their hand was strengthened this past week when Ockelshaw received a letter from two members of the Green team from ROACH. This is the first direct word HTNEIGH has had from the team, and the letter (which is being pouched) states: "We landed on 12 November. The other three members of our team were caught on the same day we landed. We were chased by the Militia until 20 December. Because of the winter weather in the mountains and the pursuit we had to come out to ROACH. The ROACHES received us well and we are happy here. We have answered all the questions they have asked us."

[] I have no bright suggestions to help you in getting the 16 men you want to start training immediately for the coastal regions. I wish we could go along with HTNEIGH in training all ten teams together and then making our selections, but I realize that you,

and [] in turn, have other considerations with which I am not directly concerned.

Under the circumstances, I think you should go ahead and select the 16 men from the overall lists agreed upon by HTNEIGH while you are in HTSTEIN, advise me who they are and I'll tell the Committee and ride out the storm.

You might make my position somewhat more comfortable by seeking the advice of the Guard Company captains in making your selections. In addition to the lists agreed upon by HTNEIGH, [] also has a letter to these individuals from HTNEIGH telling them that HTNEIGH agrees upon the men named. This should be helpful in getting the captains to cooperate.

I ask that [] be kept out of the entire project, if at all possible. I don't know what the trouble is, but HTNEIGH has cooled off on [] and Ockelshaw is even urging that he be replaced. I believe the trouble may stem from the two men we've had under surveillance - not from the men themselves, but discontent within the company as a result of our handling of the case.

If I may make a suggestion, I believe [] could assist you as the cut-out for conducting your negotiations with the captains.

So much for that. Now for a word about the Assessment Team lists, the selections [] and I worked out, and the selling of the selections to the Committee.

The list is divided into two groups, (1) selectees for W/T training and (2) selectees for general training. Fourteen men were designated for W/T training, in line with our discussions at the time of our meeting in HTSTEIN. It will be recalled that we wanted to start with a few extra, in case some washed out along the way. Thirty men have been designated for general training, which, of course, means that we have no spares in this category.

An effort was made to select the men it was felt would be best qualified for W/T training before choosing the general team members. In some instances, this meant disregarding [] comments, which were at variance with the Assessment Team's findings. For example, a man might be high on the Assessment Team rating but [] gives him an unsatisfactory motivation rating. In such instances, we gave the nod to the Assessment Team.

As nearly as it was possible to do so, we have also selected the younger men highest on the Assessment Team lists for W/T training, on the grounds that they could be more easily taught.

While it was not felt that [] cadre was a primary concern, we did endeavor to leave him some good men behind for the company. For example, we left him his two company clerks and two Lieutenant platoon leaders who were high on the Assessment Team ratings.

In several instances it will be noted that men with physical ills have also been included in the selections. Our reasons are obvious. I doubt that a single one of HTNEIGH could pass both a mental and a physical test, but they think of themselves as "fierce fighters". I did put my foot down on the man who is reported to have ulcers, but HTNEIGH is determined to have the TPSPIDER with one kidney in the show. Ditto for the man who is reported to incline toward diabetes and one who is reported to have spots on his lungs. The one man HTNEIGH felt should be scratched is the TPSPIDER who has rheumatism; it was felt that he might not be able to run fast enough in an emergency.

I have informed HTNEIGH that, while we accept their recommendations on these men with physical ills, they are to be re-examined before being taken from the company and if we judge them unfit at that time they will have to be replaced.

I'm not running the Assessment Team down, but I think we're going to have our problems if we try to dispose of all those men in the company who don't make the grade. HTNEIGH generally agrees that the Assessment Team picked the cream of the crop in their evaluation studies, but they don't concede that the others aren't "first class fierce fighters".

This-and-that department:

I have the letter from [] which was received at PARSON from the two Green Team members. If this team is being controlled, and we have no assurance that it isn't, and if I understand []'s longhand note attached to the letter sent to me - then I'm inclined to feel that he pulled a boner. In the letter from the team they state that they need tea and penicillin. [] states: "We are going to mail him some tea, and his officer is going to ask him to write only to him so the man will feel he is being helped a little, else he'll start writing to others in the company in desperation, if he hasn't already."

I don't believe we should have any correspondence between the company and this or any other team. Trust you agree and will so inform []

I've given [] all the details about those two suspects. It now develops that the agent in Bari (letter sent down here by []) is one of our TPSPIDERS employed in Bari by [] for a special task. I suggest restoring them to good standing as quickly as possible.

I'm giving this letter to [] to hand to you. For the record, I'm knixonning a copy to []

Hope you can stop here on your return from STEIN.

Regards,